

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2159 - HB 2462

March 10, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits a public high school student from being required to take any standardized test that is not mandated by the state or a college admissions test. Prohibits a state-mandated standardized assessment from being administered to a high school student if a student's parent or legal guardian requests that a student not be tested and the student has (1) a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater, (2) no more than five excused absences and no unexcused absences, (3) no conduct grades of "N" or "U" on their report card for the year, and (4) no disciplinary report, including in and out-of-school suspensions.

Students who are not being tested shall participate in an educational workshop during the mandated testing period. Requires the Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability to update its 2002 report entitled "Multiple Choices: Testing Students in Tennessee" and submit its updated report to the Senate Education Committee and the Education Administration and Planning Committee of the House of Representatives by March 1, 2017.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact - Federal funding could be jeopardized unless the Department of Education obtains an additional waiver from the federal government. Any withholding of federal funds would be at the discretion of the federal government and cannot be reasonably quantified.

Assumptions:

- The re-authorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that states annually measure the performance of each public school and that at least 95 percent of students, including at least 95 percent of all sub-demographics of students, be annually tested to obtain performance and growth measures. Tennessee's current TCAP and end of course testing, combined with the Tennessee Value Added-Assessment System (TVAAS) is the state's method of performing this task.
- If a large number of students pursuant to the provisions of the bill elected to opt out of state-mandated assessments, Tennessee may be deemed to be out of compliance with the No Child Left Behind waiver and the new ESSA requirements if an additional waiver cannot be obtained.

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- Tennessee received over \$1,000,000,000 in federal funding in FY15-16. It is unknown how much of any federal funding that would be granted to Tennessee under current law may be at risk as a result of the provisions of the bill. Any action would be at the discretion of the federal government.
- The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability will update its report from 2002 using existing personnel, without a significant increase in state expenditures.
- Any increase in local expenditures to provide educational workshops for students who opt-out of state-mandated standardized tests is estimated to be not significant. This requirement may be fulfilled in a variety of ways by local education agencies including the use of electronic media or the use of volunteers.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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